

IN SENATE  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 5, 1818.

The Committee of Claims to whom was referred the petition of Edmund Dana,

**REPORT:**

That during the late war the petitioner appears to have been permitted to act as clothing sutler, in the third military district. From time to time he furnished articles of apparel to the soldiers when they needed it, from the insufficiency of the clothing furnished by the government. These advances the petitioner was induced to make on the officers' promising to reimburse him out of the pay of the soldiers' next falling due. In this he has been disappointed, to the amount of four thousand dollars, owing to desertions of men before their enlistment expired; and their withdrawing, afterwards, without being paid by government; the death of some, and the discharge of many others on writ of habeas corpus. Accompanying the petition are documents going to establish the fact, that the petitioner did furnish clothing as he alleges; but they do not appear sufficient to avouch his accounts, were they eligible, for settlement. The committee, however, do not think there is even any equitable obligation on the Legislature to authorize the payment of this claim. The permission granted to the petitioner to deal with the soldiers, was a favour he sought, and his dealings under it were obviously at his own risk. The committee cannot distinguish between this and other private concerns. The petitioner must have been led into the concern with a view to profit, and a different result does not change its character of a concern entirely private. The committee, therefore, submit the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioner is unreasonable, and ought not to be granted.